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4 August 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for
Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comments on Proposed Legislation to
Establish a "Commission on Information
Protection and the National Security"

1. Legislation of the type proposed by Representatives Hebert and Arends would seem, in the present circumstances, to have more advantages than disadvantages in terms of the Agency's interests.

2. There is a clear need for a careful review of government-wide measures for safeguarding national security information, if for no other reason than to head off unreasonable demands for dismantling or drastically overhauling the established machinery. The Hebert-Arends bill seems designed to meet the pressures for review and adjustment without endangering national security interests. It has the additional advantage, from the Agency's viewpoint, of keeping these sensitive matters under the control of a sympathetic Armed Services Committee.

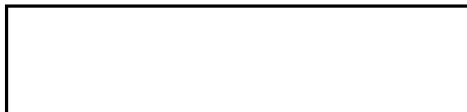
3. Here in OCI we foresee no serious problems in dealing with a commission along the lines proposed. We note the intention of the sponsors to limit the Commission's authority to practices and procedures. Even if it should get into substantive matters, we would not expect our relations to differ greatly from those we have with PFIAB or the Armed Services Committee itself.

4. We would make one further point. It seems reasonable to conclude that the Executive Branch needs to review and reform its classification and information-protection processes. If the Agency is to suggest to

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its friends on the Hill that this bill has more drawbacks than advantages it would seem proper to be able to point to an Executive Branch plan or proposal to take some initiative to reach the bill's objectives.



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Acting Director of Current Intelligence

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